STC 8745

The Copy of the Kings Maieſties Letters Patents, concerning the reformation of the Abuſes vſed in melting and *making vp of Lead, And the Sealing of the ſame.*

MAIESTY, By the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland; Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom theſe preſents ſhall come, greeting. Whereas We are giuen to vnderſtand, that by the diggers & getters of Lead-Oare out of the Mynes within this Kingdome of England and the Dominion of Wales, the ſaid Oare is carryed and conueyed vnto diuers Melting or Smelting houſes, where the ſaid Oare is melted & made into great Lumpes or peeces of Lead, commonly called Pigges or Sowes of Lead: And that diuers abuſes, deceipts, fraudes, practiſes and deuices are there daily vſed and committed in the melting and making vp of the ſaid Sowes or Pigges of Lead, by putting therein great lumpes of Scindars & other vnprofitable ſtuffe, not only to the diſgrace and vilifying of that commodity, but alſo to the manifeſt wrong and preiudice aſwell of Vs and of the Subiects of our owne Kingdomes, as of all other Nations and Countries which buy and vſe the ſame; For our better ſatisfaction wherein, We referred the examination and conſideration thereof to certaine our Commiſſioners. And whereas the ſaid Commiſſioners haue certified in writing vnder their hands, that it appeareth aſwell vpon conference with the Plombers that haue the greateſt dealing in Lead, as with ſundry Marchants of this our Realme, That the ſaid Information giuen to Vs is true, and that a reformation herin is deſired, and that it is a great diſgrace to the Lead of this Realme in Forraign parts, that the ſame abuſes are not reformed; and that the ſame abuſe appeared alſo, not onely by approbation vpon melting of diuers Sowes and Pigges, or quantities of Lead, in which there was found extraordinary waſte that was good for nothing; But alſo by ſeuerall Certificates from Marchants in Forraigne parts which haue bought of the ſaid Engliſh-Lead, and haue certified that there is great deceipt vſed in the ſaid Lead that cõmeth into Forraigne parts out of this our Realme of England. And that thoſe that do melt the ſaid Lead in Forraign parts, do alwaies find great heauy peeces of vnprofitable ſtuffe in the midſt of the Pigges which can be put to no vſe, & that oftentimes they find great ſtones in the middeſt therof, to the great loſſe of thoſe that deale with the ſame, & for which they could neuer get reſtitution; the ſaid Marchants ſhall be forced to giue ouer their dealing with Engliſh-Lead, vnleſſe the abuſes were reformed. And the ſaid Commiſſioners hath likewiſe certified vnto Vs, that foraſmuch appeared vnto them, that there is Abuſe and deceipt vſed in making vp of Lead, wherof both the Plombars & Marchants deſire reformation; They hold it fit & conuenient, that ſome courſe ſhould therin, ſo as neither the Plombar that dealeth with the commodity at home, nor the Marchant that ventureth the ſame abroad in Forraigne parts, might haue cauſe to complaine as hertofore done.

hauing had conſideration of the premiſſes, and being very deſirous, & holding it in our Princely Iudgment a thing moſt fit, and properly belonging to our Regall Office, by the beſt & moſt ſpeedy We may to preuent, ſubuert and extinguiſh fraudes & practiſes attempted and put in vre for vniuſt and priuate ends, and for particular lucre and gaine, to the generall detriment and preiudice ommon-wealth of this our Kingdome, attended with the diſgrace & diſcredit of the Marchandizes of the ſame, and the hinderance of the trade and Traffique of our Subiects in Forraigne parts; th been famous throughout all Nations. And finding no better way for the effecting therof, then by imploying ſome perſon or perſons of truſt & skill, who may ſuruey & ſée to the melting & making ſaid Lead into Pigges or Sowes of Lead before it be ſent from the melting houſes, or by other conuenient meanes may try & proue the goodnes & well making of the ſaid Pigges and Sowes of Lead, her Lead by what name ſoeuer melted or made, and therupon ſet a Marke or Stampe on them for the better vnderſtanding of the true making vp therof. Of Our certaine Knowledge & meere haue willed, ordained, conſtituted and appointed, and by theſe preſents, for Vs, our Heires and Succeſſors, Doe will, ordaine, conſtitute and appoint, that for euer hereafter there ſhall be an which ſhall be, and ſhall be called the Office of Surueyor of Vs, our Heires & Succeſſors of Lead. And that there ſhall be for euer hereafter, one or more perſon or perſons, by Vs, our Heires ceſſors to be nominated & appointed, which ſhall be, and ſhall be called the Surueyor & Surueyors of Vs, our Heires & Succeſſors of Lead. Unto which Officer & Officers, We doe hereby our Heires & Succeſſors, giue & grant full power, and authority by himſelfe or themſelues, or his or their ſufficient Deputy or Deputies, aſſigne or aſſignes, from time to time to repaire vnto all the melting or ſmelting houſes, which now be, or hereafter ſhall be, within our ſaid Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales, or any part of them, or either of them, where Lead is, or ſhall or made vp, and there to haue and take a diligent veiw & Suruey of all Lead ſo melted or made vp within our ſaid Realme & Dominion. And alſo to ouerſée the melting & making vp thereof. wiſe by all good waies and meanes He or they may, to ſearch & try the ſaid Pigges & Sowes, and other quantities or lumpes of Lead ſo to be made, and vpon approbation thereof, to be good & Mar- Lead, to ſet a Marke or Stampe vpon it, whereby the buyer of the ſame Lead may be aſſured of the goodnes & well making vp & melting of the ſame. And to that end & purpoſe Our will & plea- And We doe herby for Vs, our Heires & Succeſſors, grant that the ſaid Officer or Officers, ſhall and may haue a Seale or ſtampe to be vſed by him, or them, or his or their Deputy or Deputies, ſame may alter, breake, or make a new at his, and their pleaſure.

And further, We doe herby for Vs, our Heires and Succeſſors, giue power & authority vnto the ſaid Officer and Officers ſo as aforeſaid to be nominated & appointed, by himſelfe or themſelues, their Deputy or Deputies, to doe any other lawfull acts tending to the reformation of the abuſes, practiſes & deceipts aforeſaid, according to our true intent & meaning in theſe preſents expreſſed. the end that ſuch perſons as ſhall hereafter offend in any the premiſſes, may be left without excuſe, and receiue ſome condigne puniſhment for ſuch their offences, We doe by theſe preſents alſo for Heires & Succeſſors, ſtraightly charge, prohibite and forbid all, and all manner of perſons whatſoeuer, that they or any of them doe not at any time or times hereafter attempt or preſume to take away any Lead from, or out of any melting or ſmelting houſe within this our Realme of England, or the Dominion of Wales, or any part of them or either of them, before ſ̄ ſame Lead be duly tri- ed & Sealed by the ſaid Officer or Officers, or his or their aſſignes, Deputies or ſeruants, or ſome or one of them, who for that purpoſe at all times conuenient ſhall attend the ſame, vpon paine ture of all ſuch Lead ſo taken, or carryed away from the ſaid melting or ſmelting houſes contrary to the true meaning of theſe preſents, and alſo vpon paine of our heauy indignation & diſpleaſure, further paines, penalties, punishments, and impriſonments, as by any of the Lawes or Statutes of this Realme can or may be inflicted vpon the offenders herin for their contempt or diſobedi- breaking or contemning this our Royall Commandement.

And for the better helpe and aſſiſtance of the ſaid Officer & Officers, and his & their aſſignes, Deputies & ſeruants in this ſeruice, for the better diſcouery of the fraudes and abuſes aforeſaid, We doe for Vs, our Heires & Succeſſors, giue full power & authority vnto the ſaid Officer and Officers, and his and their aſſignes, Deputies, and ſeruants, or any of them, from time to time, and at all hereafter at his and their & euery or any of their will and pleaſure, aſwell by night as by day, to goe on Board, view, and ſearch, and ſuruey euery Ship, veſſell or bottome ryding or lying within rt, Hauen or Créeke of this Realme of England, or the Dominion of Wales, or any part thereof, and by day time with the aſſiſtance of a Conſtable, or other Officer, to goe and enter into any Hawlt, Ware-houſe, ſhop, or other place, to ſée if there ſhall be any Lead taken or carryed from the melting or ſmelting houſes aforeſaid, before the ſame hath béene veiwed, weighed, tried and according to the true meaning of theſe preſents; and there in due & lawfull maner to ſeize, take & carry away all ſuch Lead as he or they, or any of them ſhall find to be ſo taken & carryed from the houſes vnweighed and vnmarked, contrary to our pleaſure herein expreſſed; The moitie or one halfe of all which forfeitures, We doe for Vs, our Heirs and Succeſſors, giue and grant to the ficer and Officers, and his & their Deputies and aſſignes: And the other moytie thereof, We will ſhall be reſerued & anſwered to the vſe of Vs, our Heires and Succeſſors.

Becauſe the well managing of this buſines tendeth to the great benefit of all perſons that ſhall be occaſioned to vſe any of the ſaid Lead, & that the ſame cannot be vndergone without great & daily for the maintenance of fit and able Deputies, Miniſters, and other perſons to attend the execution of the ſeruice incident to the aforeſaid Office; We doe herby for Vs, our Heires & Succeſſors, ute & ordaine, that it ſhall and may be lawfull for, and alſo giue power & authority vnto the ſaid Officer and Officers, from time to time hereafter by himſelfe, or themſelues, or his or their aſſignes ts or ſeruants, to aske, demand, receiue & take of euery Owner and Owners, Maker & Makers vp of Lead, for the viewing, ſurueying, trying & marking of euery Hundred waight of Lead at any rafter to be melted and made vp within this our Kingdome of England, and the Dominion of Wales, or either of them, and which by the ſaid Officer or Officers, or their, or any of their aſſignes, ies, & ſeruants, or ſome, or any of them ſhal be viewed, ſurueyed, weighed & marked according to the true meaning of theſe preſents, the Sum of Two pence of currant money of England, which ſaid of Two pence vpon euery Hundred waight of the ſaid Lead, Our pleaſure likewiſe is, ſhall be taken, received and paid at the melting or ſmelting houſes before the ſaid Lead be ſold, vttered or diſ- out of the ſame; And that the ſaid Two pence vpon euery Hundred waight of the ſaid Lead appointed to be received & taken as aforeſaid, be for euer hereafter vnited & annexed to the ſaid Office or duty to be taken and received for the ſurueying, viewing, trying & marking the ſaid Lead; And that the ſaid fée or duty be taken & received by the ſaid Officer or Officers, or his or their depu- aſſignes in manner aforeſaid, without the let or contradiction of Vs, our Heires or Succeſſors, or any of our, or their Officers or Miniſters, or other perſons whatſoeuer.

And for the better effecting of Our will & pleaſure herein, KNOW YE, that We repoſing aſſured truſt & confidence in the vnderſtanding, fidelity & circumſpection of our welbeloued Henry Bell Eſ- for the better effecting of Our will & pleaſure herin, KNOW YE, that We repoſing aſſured truſt & confidence in the vnderſtanding, fidelity & circumſpection of our welbeloued Henry Bell Eſ- of Our eſpeciall Grace and certaine knowledge, and meere motion, haue giuen and granted, and by theſe preſents for Vs, our Heires & Succeſſors, We doe giue & grant vnto the ſaid Henry Bell, aſſignes the foreſaid Office of Surueyor, of Vs, our Heires & Succeſſors of Lead, with the appurtenances, And him the ſaid Henry Bell, and his aſſignes, the Surueyor & Surueyors of Vs, our and Succeſſors of Lead, to doe, performe, and execute all and ſingular the premiſſes by the Officer or Officers aforeſaid, according to the true meaning hereof to be performed, We doe for Vs, ires and Succeſſors, make, ordaine, create and conſtitute, by theſe preſents.

To haue and to hold the ſaid Office, together with all and ſingular the powers, priuiledges, Fées, duties, forfeitures, and premiſſes to the ſaid Henry Bell, and his aſſignes by himſelfe, or themſelues or their ſufficient Deputy or Deputies, for and during the tearme, and vnto the full end & tearme of Thirty and One yéeres from the day of the Date of theſe preſents, next enſuing, and fully to be ed and ended.